

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

This Amendment is entered pursuant to a telephone interview initiated by Examiner Hyun. The Examiner and counsel reviewed the application carefully and agreed to several changes that would put the application in condition for allowance. It was agreed that this Amendment should be submitted by counsel to facilitate entry of the Amendment by the Examiner.

At the outset, all of the claims have been amended to eliminate the numeric references. Numeric references are not required under U.S. patent law and are given no patentable weight. Accordingly, the entry to eliminate the numeric references is not a narrowing amendment and is not an amendment entered for purposes of patentability.

The Examiner correctly noted that the angles " α " shown FIGS. 7(A) and 7(B) are not obtuse angles, but rather are acute angles (i.e., supplements of obtuse angles). The specification and the claims have been amended at several locations to ensure conformance with the figures. These clarifying amendments also are not narrowing amendments.

The Examiner noted that claim 1 referred to the element 24 as a base, whereas claim 5 referred to the element 24 as a bottom plate and claim 6 referred to the element 24 as a base plate. The Examiner noted that the specification referred to the element 24 as a base plate. Accordingly, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to be consistent with claim 6 and to conform with the terminology employed in the specification. This clarifying amendment is not a narrowing amendment. Dependent claims 7-10 conform to independent claim 7 and dependent claims 12-14 conform to independent

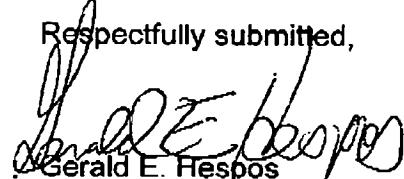
claim 11. Hence, amendments to these claims are not believed to be necessary with respect to the elements 24.

The Examiner also noted one numbering mistake in the specification and one instance where an incorrect term was used. Both of these clerical errors occurred in paragraph 0022. Paragraph 0022 has been corrected in this regard.

The Examiner also requested counsel to submit a new copy of Form PTO-1449 to properly show the U.S. equivalent of the European reference that was cited in the European Search Report. A new copy of Form PTO-1449 is attached in accordance with the Examiner's request.

Based on the interview, it is the understanding of counsel that the above-identified application now is in condition for allowance. However, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants attorney if there are any other questions or requirements.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald E. Hespos
Atty. Reg. No. 30,066
Customer No. 001218
CASELLA & HESPOS LLP
274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703
New York, NY 10016
Tel. (212) 725-2450
Fax (212) 725-2452

Date: February 1, 2005